

September 16, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Docket Numbers: 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

Dear Food and Drug Administration,

This letter is in regard to the illnesses and deaths caused by contaminated eggs. Below is my suggestion for reducing egg borne diseases which can cause illness and death:

Presently the FDA puts "bacteria" warning labels on egg cartons and regulates egg refrigeration temperatures. While this is an excellent practice, it is not enough. Since the FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices, it should **prohibit the practice of forced molting**. This practice has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hen's immune system. Because the hen's immune system is destroyed, forced molting is a primary cause of infectious diseases in eggs, hens and consumers of eggs. In April 1998, the FDA was petitioned to ban force molting. This petition should be granted immediately.

Thank you for taking time to read my letter.

Respectfully,

Linda Williams

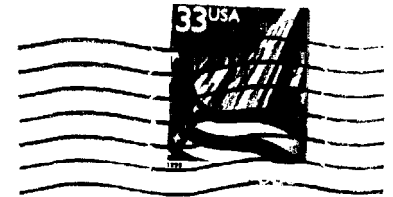
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97P-0197

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20857-0001



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C690

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C691
96P-0418/C690